

DU PONT WAR BOOM TOWN IS NOW IN RUINS

Flames Fanned by 30 Mile Wind Nearly Wipe Hope-

**10,000 FAMILIES
MADE HOMELESS**

Great Powder Plant Still Stands—1,000 Men Are on Guard

**FIRE ATTRIBUTED
TO INCENDIARISM**

Two Men Killed Trying to Rob Bank Cashier— Negro Lynched.

HOPEWELL, Va., Dec. 9.—Almost all of this town—a magic war boom growth about the great du Pont powder plant—is in smouldering ruins tonight. A fire, fanned by a thirty mile

The city is gripped with terror. Martial law has been declared. Troops are being rushed here from half a dozen cities to restore order. Distress, confusion, ghoulis, fear for the vast powder plant fill the night with grim possibilities.

The flames are under control, but that is all there is of hope. The busi-

sections are in ashes. Two banks, the Victoria Hotel where 500 Greeks had accommodations; the Norfolk and Western Railway station, where the telegraph office was located; virtually the whole town, with the exception of the powder plant itself, has been reduced to ruins. Scenes of terror have followed and Gov. Stuart has sent all the help that has been asked to pre-

1,000 Guards at the Plant.

A small army of a thousand men has been guarding the du Pont plant all afternoon and to-night. Mounted men and others on foot, all armed, are patrolling the company's property. Several hundred picked men are on guard on the walls.

Walls. Streams of water have been poured on the buildings. Every man who holds a firearm is shot. The plant is some little distance from the fire, but its rapid spread and the fear of incendiarism have caused increased precautions.

A supposed German agent was arrested early in the day and the belief is current that the big fire may have had incendiary origin, though the authorities are doubtful. The du Pont officials assert that the prisoners had blue prints of the buildings and that a stranger was seen placing something in

The company's shipping shed. A slight breeze from the west at midnight might tonight have been blowing.

The town has been virtually isolated since mid afternoon. The flames swept through the city so fast that it was impossible to be summoned by telephone via Petersburg and Norfolk and relayed to Gov. Stuart. Supt. Morgan of the railroad said he had no way of knowing how Hopewell before the flames went down. It was to the company's principal officers and said that the plant was safe, but that the entire town appeared to be doomed. The prediction did not go far wrong.

Fire Starts In Restaurant.

The flames were first detected in a small Italian restaurant on Carson street, near the centre of the town, and

The high wind lifted the sparks and scattered them all about with incredible rapidity. They set fire wherever they fell and it was soon apparent that Hopewell's volunteer fire apparatus was a toy in the emergency.

The Chamber of Commerce called for aid from Petersburg, nine miles away, and a fire steamer, a chemical wagon and twenty-five sections of hose with twelve men hurried here on a special train.

It was 2 o'clock when the blaze began to gain its great headway. In half an hour the town's fate was blown about in the thirty mile wind. The restaurant block went first. Then Broadway, the business street, was in flames.

Rappahannock and Howesville streets succumbed rapidly, laying home after home in ashes. The Victoria Hotel, whose 500 patrons lost their all, collapsed before the feeble efforts of the

Additional apparatus from Petersburg and Richmond availed little. The fire by the time the firemen arrived was eating its way toward the railroad and telegraph offices. Hopes of saving anything dwindled. With a rush the flames leaped to the railroad buildings. The disappeared like card houses touched by a match. Everywhere the town was in flames, which were spreading to Petersburg. Even before Hopewell signaled in Petersburg for an appeal to

Gov. Stuart the call was on its way.

Everybody Seemed Homeless.

Meanwhile the more pitiable phase of the conflagration was at hand. Everybody seemed to be homeless. Men, women and children, frantic over loss of homes and possessions, unable to locate friends and relatives, in the scramble scattered among the fire fighters, and hindered by the valiant efforts, Men fought among themselves. The city was terror stricken. Ghouls snooted about for something of value.

News has reached here that the cashier of the First National Bank, who saved its money and securities and

1. Adv.